



**WARRIOR**  
**LIFE**  
**PODCAST**

**Episode #366 Show Notes**  
**How To Join A "Knife Cult"**  
**(And Why You'd Want To)**

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# How To Join A “Knife Cult” (And Why You’d Want To)

with Buck Greene from <https://www.WarriorLife.com/>

## 1. Specific Knife

- Knife cults aren't a bad thing. We attach negative meaning to “cult,” but here we're talking about “training tribes” of people who approach self-defense with a blade in the same way.
- A lot of people get into a “knife cult” when a specific knife becomes a fad and they acquire that knife. The Victorinox fruit knife, the Pioneer Woman paring knife, and the Okapi/Kudu knives are all great examples.
- Often, acquiring one of those specific knives prompts you to seek out the groups and instruction that have made them popular. Sometimes these things go hand in hand.
- That brings us to...

## 2. Specific Method

- Every “knife cult” has a specific method they use, a specific thing that characterizes their training.
- If you look at videos of people training Piper, for example, they all kind of look the same.
- Videos of Scott Babb from Libre Fighting all have the same basic quality to them (and he's pretty great).
- The method is a “form follows function” sort of thing. What the practitioners are trying to accomplish is what dictates how they approach using a knife for self-defense.

## 3. Specific Training

- We live in a time of unprecedented access to great, specific knife fighting training. The “knife cults” have made this abundant for us.
- You can get DVDs; you can watch stuff for free on YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook. There are entire instruction manuals available.

## 4. Culture & Trappings

- In interesting outgrowth of knife cults is the types of stuff they post online that are basically symbols and accessories.
- Santa Muerte, certain patches and designs, stickers, and other “trappings” all make the EDC game more interesting... while allowing members of the “knife cult” to identify each other.
- Identifying each other is a pretty useful thing because it leads to networking, training groups, etc.

## 5. Keep On Learning

- One of the best outgrowths of getting into a “knife cult” is the opportunities for continued learning it gives you.
- I wouldn't have known of some of the mods to make to a Cold Steel Kudu, for example, if not for Instagram posts.
- I never really thought of pop knives as a defense tool until I saw how popular they were on Instagram, either.

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What's up warriors and welcome to Warrior Life podcast number 366. This is Buck Greene sitting in for Jeff Anderson. And today I thought we'd talk about something a little bit different that we have touched on sort of in park and that is knife Cults specifically what they are how to join them and why you'd want to. Are you ready? Then? Let's talk joining a knife cult.

Okay, we're back. This is Buck Greene in for Jeff Anderson. I'll talk about knife cults today. Now, I want to start off by saying when I say a knife cult, I'm not saying that's a bad thing.

We attach this negative connotation to the word cult, you know, we think of weirdos and groups that abuse their followers and people that exploit the folks who believe in them. That's not what I'm talking about here. The term cult simply refers to a kind of training tribe, a group that is devoted to pursuing self-defense with a blade in much. The same way knives are such a basic and readily available tool their tools that can be improved.

Revised, if you can't get access to better knives, their tools that have a great deal of power. It's been said, many times by me at least that guns are the single best weapon for self-defense, but knives are second-best. The gap between the two is fairly large, but it is still the case that the knife is an incredibly powerful self-defense tool. It offers you the ability to accomplish a lot by that. I mean like a lever it lets you do more damage with less effort and

In the context of self-defense damage, boils down to being able to stop someone from hurting you. You are pre-empting their attack. You're interrupting their attack by bringing to bear on them. Sufficient Force to neutralize them. You're not out to kill them. But if your life is in danger, and you have a moral and legal justification for using potentially deadly force than if they happen to die from, you stopping them from killing you. That's kind of their problem, granted. I'm not a

Lawyer and you should really check out our bulletproof legal defense course because it really all comes down to our legal system, being kind of nutty, but if you are in imminent, threat of bodily harm and you have no way to retreat and you have the option to use potentially lethal Force to stop someone else from killing you, then you

may be justified in doing so, and that's the whole point of carrying a knife. A deadly weapon for self-defense.

I know right now. There are some people listening to this who are not in the United States who are saying, well, I can't I can't carry a knife in any way. I can't carry any offensive weapon where I live. It's going to be illegal for me to do that. And I understand that doesn't mean you can't benefit from knowing how to use these techniques because they can work with literally anything. I'll pencil an ice pick a screwdriver. We're talking about, you know, the, the point driven method that characterizes most of these knife calls that have recognized that

Slashing and cutting are fine, but they do not definitively end a fight. What ends a fight, what neutralizes an attacker who's trying to murder you? Is putting a foreign object deep into them and disrupting their organs. You know, it, there's no Pleasant way to talk about these things. It's pretty rough stuff. But before we get to all of that, let's talk about how people get into knife Cults. A lot of people get into knife Cults, when they become aware of a specific.

Fake knife. Fad here. I'm thinking of things like the Victorinox fruit knife. The birds beak paring knife that has become so popular. Thanks to folks. Like Ed's Manifesto The Pioneer Woman, paring knife that the knife that broke the internet. We've talked about that before it Warrior life. The piper folks have made the Okapi ring, pull knife from South Africa, super popular. And the cold steel kudu is basically a modern upgrade to that knife. I actually don't know if

in Thompson was aware of Piper when he introduced the kudu because that nights been around for a while. I remember giving a bunch of them as Christmas gifts years ago. So I honestly don't know how I would imagine given some of the knives that Len Thompson introduced. It cold steel. I think, every once in a, while. He saw a knife that he thought was cool. And he said, let's introduce our version of that. And if I owned a Knife Company, I would do exactly the same thing. For those of you who don't know, Lynn Thompson. I believe has sold Cold Steel to another company and has moved on to do.

Some other side Venture where he's still doing knives to some degree, but but, you know, the day-to-day operation of Cold Steel. Now belongs to somebody else. Okay. So let's say, you've gotten into a knife cult, because you've acquired a specific knife, or you've become aware of the popularity of a specific knives, you know, that's how I got into the fruit knives. And I've done, I think I didn't heart entire podcast, on Victorinox fruit knives. And the sort of tactical fruit knife, craze, once you've acquired that knife. It is only natural.

For you to be curious about the specific method that is being promoted for use with that knife. For example, when people talk about the Victorinox fruit knife. They're usually talking about using pickle, which is a specific knife method involving The Cutting Edge being in, and the knife being held in a reverse grip. So, you've got the sharp edge pointing down from your fist and pointing in towards your body and what you're doing is, you're driving it forward and pulling it.

Rip your way through whatever's in your way. Bacala means to rip. So that's a specific method that goes with that knife with the the Okapi and kudu knives and Piper knife fighting, which is South African in origin. There is a specific method that goes with using that knife. There's a way that these folks approach what they do and you can spot that. If you look at videos of people who train in Piper, they all kind of look the same. When they're practicing in. A lot of these people will post

out there, there flow drills online. If you look at any of the really cool videos, that's got bad from Levi, fighting has put up on his YouTube channel. They all kind of had the same look and feel to them. They're consistent to each other Scott's incredibly good at what he does and it's fun to watch him work. It's really a form following function, kind of a thing. Practitioners are trying to accomplish a certain goal and what that goal is dictates how they do it and to break away from nines.

I'll bet I've noticed that a lot of the Firearms instructors that I've taken classes with all tend to look and feel the same even though they're from different companies. And you know, their exact methods may be a little different. The way their bodies move is all kind of the same. You'll see them gliding, you know, gliding along to keep their upper body steady. As a shooting platform. You'll see them holding their guns in certain ways, to give them better access to the site's. It's something that's remarkably consistent. Even when people didn't train together, aren't from the same company didn't learn under the same instructor.

Ders, and that sort of quality is also there when it comes to these quote-unquote knife. Cults, these people who teach fighting with a knife and we've gotten away from the term knife, fighting knife fighting was a very 80s and 90s kind of a term back in the old mail order catalog days. Nobody really refers to is and I fighting anymore and it never really was because knife fighting makes it sound like a couple of people dueling away like in in West Side Story. A reference that most of you don't get in junior high. They made me watch a

Nicole called West Side Story. It's about two gangs in New York City, the Sharks and the Jets who spend their time, engaging in choreographed dance numbers and

occasionally, they break to have switchblade fights. And that is West Side Story. We're two dudes will get tied together by the left hand and then fight each other with switchblades, and I know that this makes me old but but as a Junior High student, that was my introduction to the

What world of knife fighting was the Sharks and the Jets in West Side Story and, you know, you haven't lived until you've watched movies on that stupid rolling cart with the TV, in the VCR in it, that they used to roll around back when I was in school and before that, it was, you know, actual projectors because they didn't have the VCRs until a certain point in the 80s. Anyway, knife fighting is, is that outmoded model of dueling? What we're talking about what the knife culture talking about is people applying

Forced to other people using blades. That's the whole point. That's that's using the power of the knife to give you the leverage. You need the force multiplication. You need to get your way out of a potentially deadly situation. So we have we really have a huge advantage over people that came before us. And this is, as a follow-on to my form follows function, the types of specific training that these knife Cults off.

Offer has never been more widely available back in the old mail order days. The first books on knife fighting I ever bought, we're from Paladin, press and Delta press companies that don't exist anymore, you know, and you'd have to call a catalog company and place your order over the phone and read them your address and let them wait for them, to mess it up and repeat it back to you wrong. And then eventually, if you were really lucky, you've got a box in the mail from UPS that had what you ordered now.

If you want to get specific training in these specific methods that these people advocating specific knives are advocating. Then you have never lived at a time when it was easier to get, you can get DVDs, you can watch stuff for free on YouTube. You can watch videos on Instagram Instagram live and stuff like that or what do they call it Instagram? TV, something like that. You can watch stuff on Facebook. There has never been a time when this stuff was more widely available. I have an entire piece.

EDF file. That is a book on Piper knife fighting. I don't even remember where I got that. I think it was sent to me by a friend who's also studied Piper. There's just so much out there and it's never been easier to get it's only a few clicks away. So you should be very grateful that we live in a time where these knife calls are making their instruction. So widely available and yes, sometimes you'll pay for it. But you know, what's your life worth? I've never found a knife instruction program that I thought was worthwhile that I also thought.



Too expensive, you know, I bought several of the Libre fighting materials that were all very reasonably priced and this brings me to number four of my reasons to how to join a knife called why you'd want to. We covered one a specific knife that draws you in to a specific method that sort of dictates how things are done 3. The specific training that helps you learn how to use that specific method and all of this leads to for the sort of culture and

Trappings of the knife cult. It's an interesting outfit outgrowth of knife, Cults in the types of stuff that they post online, the types of things that become popular among them. Like for instance, you'll find amongst the the online knife calls a lot of Santa Muerte imagery there. You know, it's the lady deaf icon, it, she sort of up. It's not really a Catholic saint as I understand it. She's sort of a an unofficial Saint, you know, the saint of death, they're stickers and and

Kinds of other sort of auxiliary types of things that people into these knife called Post in there, you know, EDC pocket of pictures on Instagram and in other social media, it's just kind of neat to sort of immerse yourself into that culture. And the reason that it's kind of neat is that it leads to networking. It leads to, you making friends with people. I on Instagram. I have made more interesting connections with people who are into the same stuff, you know, and

You'll people will will write to you to ask you questions about stuff that you posted or you'll write to them or you'll comment and say you know, hey, that's a neat knife. Where'd you get that or what is that? That I'm looking at? What is this sticker? Where'd you get that? And what you're doing is You're Building relationships among fellow members of the of the knife cult. You're essentially part of it now and as you network, you're learning more. You're finding more training opportunities, you're getting into training groups. You're meeting people who you might meet in real life, maybe and train with

Um, one of the things that that I was really fascinated by when there was a time when I wanted to do martial arts training because I thought that was the model for self-defense. I hadn't, yet discovered combatives training. I was under the impression. I was of the opinion, that there wasn't a lot available in my area. I could not have been more wrong once I actually started looking and networking with other people in the local martial arts Community. I discovered that there was way more training in my area than I could possibly.

We imagined and the same is true for modern knife, cult training, modern, combatives training. All of this stuff, is way more available than you, think it is. Unless you're currently living in a snow cave in Alaska. I guarantee that. Even if you have to travel a



little bit, you could find this training if you wanted to and, and I have been blessed to be able to attend all kinds of seminars with lots of people in the industry. My job. Of course with Warrior life has afforded me, the opportunity to interview a lot of these people which has been fantastic. Not everybody has

That Advantage. So all you have to do is start networking, as you're as you're enjoying the culture and the trappings of the knife called network, with the people who are in it, get to know the people who are in it, you're going to benefit from that type of networking and thus sort of quote unquote joining a knife called is less like running away and joining the circus and more like simply becoming part of a culture of training and approach to the blade as self-defense weapon that will

Oh, benefit you in lots of areas of your life because really what is what is self defense training? What is knife training? You are training to protect your life from people who want to take it from you. I can't think of anything more life affirming than that. And yeah, I know that there's still a part of us, who looks at the old, the old books on knife fighting and I'm thinking of there was fighting knives magazine. I used to buy that magazine and I believe at one time fighting knives magazine was almost exclusively written by one guy.

I think who was trying very hard to keep that magazine afloat and didn't have a lot of contributors. But but I loved it. That was some of my first exposure to the world of blades as self-defense weapons and what people were actually teaching about them. And you know, you can't you can't deny that. We're all a little attracted to the yes, it's cheesy, but you know, why does cheesy cell Because deep down? There's a little bit of fourteen-year-old ninja and all of us.

Us. You know, like I grew up in the 80s and I was part of the the 80s ninja craze. I remember making my own ninja stars out of cardboard and aluminum foil and watching ninja shows like the master would leave and cleave on television. There is no getting away from that for a lot of us. So you can acknowledge that, you know, knife fighting sounds cool and romantic while also acknowledging the reality. That defending yourself with a blade is very serious thing potentially hurting or taking someone's life in order to preserve. Your own is a very serious.

This thing so it all comes down to keeping these things in perspective networking with the people who can help teach you and then point number five, keep on learning one of the one of the best outgrowths of getting into a knife called is the opportunities for continued learning that it gives you their all kinds of things. I wouldn't know if I hadn't gotten immersed in this knife cult culture. I've made a bunch of modifications to one of my cold steel kudu knives. That I wouldn't have known about if I had not seen.

In those modifications Elsewhere for some of the modifications you can do on that and I, for instance, you can put a thumb stud on it. I've been aware of bolt on thumb studs for many, many years. But I've also seen people remove the metal ring pull and replace it with a cord, so that it's silent, which is cool. There's no more rattling. I've seen people even chop the blade down, grind it down so that it's shorter and a little more wieldy in the hand, which I don't know, as I would do that to a blade. But if

What? You're into more power to you, I would not have known any of that. If I hadn't seen that in this sort of knife culture, online. Another thing that I've really gotten into is pop knives. Those those simple retracting razor blade knives, that I never really saw as a viable defensive option until I saw how popular they were among the Instagram knife called crowd. And the reason they're popular is because they're really flat and really concealable. And with a brand new razor blade in there. They're really sharp. They work better than you might think.

I think, and it's just a simple sort of tactical minimalist way of arming yourself with a disposable blade and, of course, the among the knife called folks. There's a lot of modifications being done. People doing all kinds of fanciful, vinyl wraps on them to make them super cool. I made myself a bunch of Day of the Dead pop knives with some vinyl sheets that I bought online. So it's just there's so many cool things you can get into that. You wouldn't have known about. Otherwise. If not for all that networking. If not for all that learning.

And really, that's what we're talking about. That's why we built Warrior life into a community because what we're doing is fostering Community, Learning Community Improvement, all of us working together to be better able to defend ourselves. So at the end of the day, the reason you might want to join a knife called and how you do, it comes down to those Five Points. A specific knife driven by a specific method, the specific training that's available, the culture and the trap.

Things of that knife called the make it more enjoyable and facilitate networking so that you can keep on learning and continue to grow in your quest, to defend yourself and to better protect your family. I can't think of anything better and it's a lot of fun. All right. That's going to about do it for this episode of warrior life radio. I am Buck Greene sitting in for Jeff Anderson until next time. Prepare train and survive.